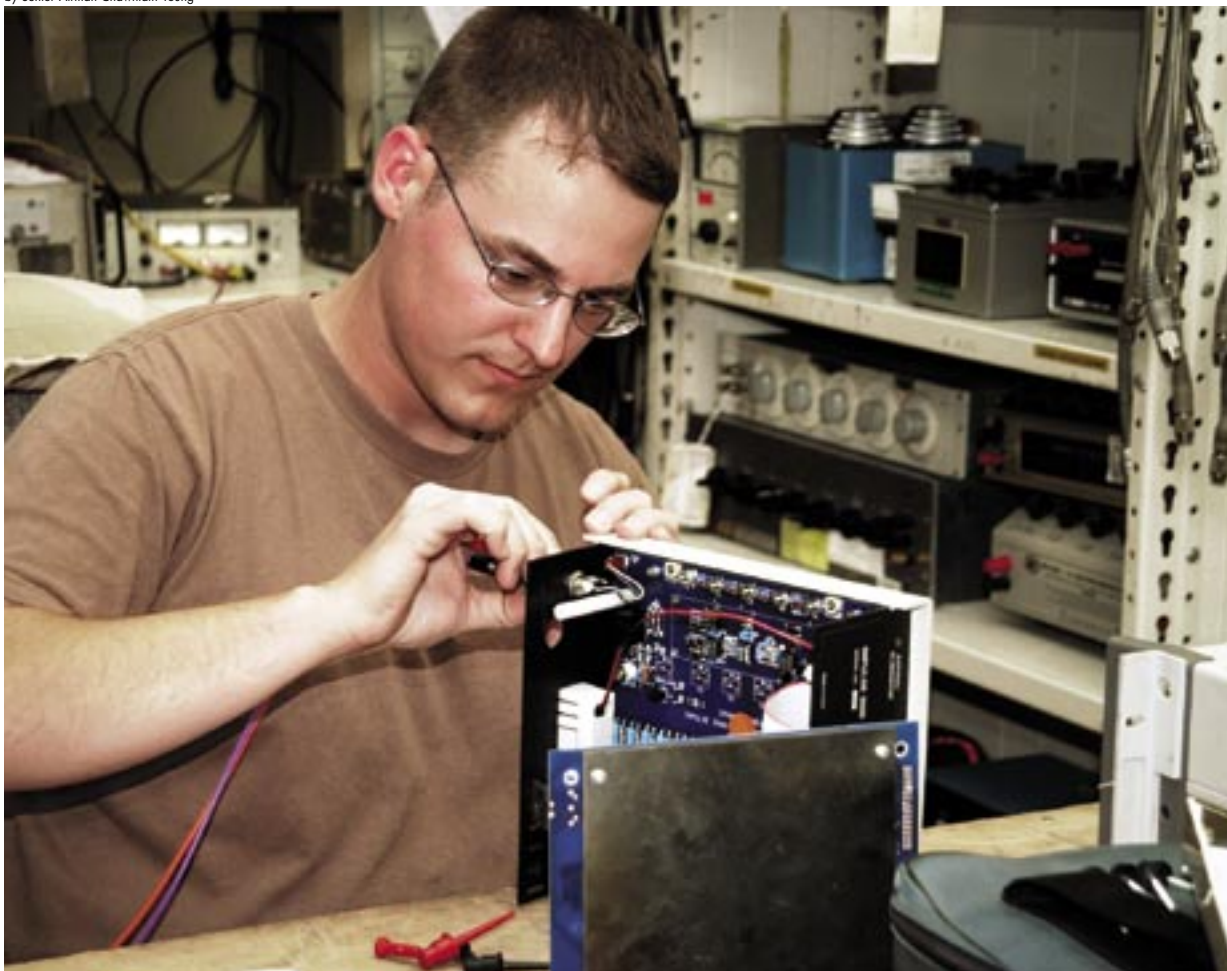


by Senior Airman Chawntain Young



Hospitals use analyzers to verify proper operation of their defibrillators, which are used to stabilize patients who have abnormal heart rates. Staff Sgt. Matthew Koch, a 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squad-

ron precision measurement equipment laboratory technician, performs a load and resistance calibration on a defibrillator analyzer. Technicians like Sergeant Koch are doctors for one of the Air Force's most precious resources — its equipment.

PMEL troops play game of 'precision'

SOUTHWEST ASIA — They diagnose, treat and cure. There's literally no margin for error, or it could cost someone's life.

The professionals assigned to the 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron precision measurement equipment laboratory are "doctors" for one of the Air Force's most precious resources — its equipment.

From the defibrillator doctors use to bring fading patients back to life to the missile test sets maintainers use to keep bombs and missiles on target, these professionals are responsible for ensuring every piece of equipment used to establish a reference or make a measurement is in

peak operating condition.

"Our field touches just about every squadron on base. Pretty much everyone uses some type of test measurement and diagnostic equipment, and it's our job to calibrate or fix it if it's broken," said Tech. Sgt. **Sean Jenigen**, 379th precision lab production control supervisor. "Just the other day, one of our technicians received a \$500,000 piece of equipment that was inoperable, and he was able to troubleshoot the problem, fix it and bring the equipment back to life."

Once a technician's job is done, another resource has been renewed or revived. Then other Air Force pro-

professionals can continue using it to do their jobs. That's something many technicians take to heart.

"When people ask us to fix or calibrate their equipment, they're trusting us to help them do their jobs, and I can see how our piece of the puzzle fits in," said Staff Sgt. **Andrea Lopez**, a 379th precision lab technician. "The best part of my day is when I see them using equipment I calibrated or fixed."

It's all in a day's work for these professionals. It has to be because the mission — fighting the global war on terrorism — depends on it.

— Senior Airman Chawntain Young
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